

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: October 18, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on October 12, 2001

FROM: William E. Munro, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Removal Completed, 76th & Albany Site, Chicago, Illinois

On October 9, 2001, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Benning completed the removal action at the 76th and Albany site in Chicago, Illinois. One of the Silver Shovel locations, the City has been working at the site for over a year, removing demo debris and auto fluff. U.S. EPA action involved the treatment and removal of approximately 23,000 cubic yards of auto fluff from December 2000 through March 2001. Additional removal work was conducted later in the year after the City's operation stopped due to lack of financial resources. U.S. EPA committed additional funds to assist the City with the removal of a stockpile of treated auto fluff still remaining on site. From September 19 through October 9, 2001, U.S. EPA removed an additional 12,000 cubic yards of auto fluff for disposal. The site is currently going through redevelopment as a Brownfields project for the City.

Contact: Brad Benning (312-353-7613)

Pre-Final Inspection (Construction Completion), Tippecanoe Sanitary Landfill Superfund Site, LaFayette, Indiana

On September 20, 2001, Jon Peterson traveled to the Tippecanoe

Sanitary Landfill Superfund site in LaFayette, Indiana, to participate in the pre-final inspection of the landfill. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has been overseeing the construction of the cap on the 70 acre landfill since last Summer. The potentially responsible parties (PRPs) had been working 12 hour days in order to complete the construction this Summer. IDEM staff have been present on the site as IDEM did not have oversight contractors available for this site. The PRPs were racing to complete installation of leachate extraction systems, gas flares, gas probes, fencing, and leachate storage tanks on the date of the pre-final inspection. This successful pre-final inspection resulted in a construction completion on September 27, 2001.

Contact: Jon Peterson (312-353-1264)

Pre-Final Inspection (Construction Completion), Galesburg/Koppers Co. Superfund Site, Galesburg, Illinois

On September 21, 2001, Jon Peterson traveled to the Galesburg/Koppers Co. Superfund site in Galesburg, Illinois, to participate in the pre-final inspection of the site. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has been overseeing the construction of land treatment units and in-situ groundwater treatment wells and trenches at the site for the last several years. At the time of the inspection, the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) were completing installation of the last of the groundwater treatment wells that would be installed at the site. This successful pre-final inspection resulted in a construction completion on September 27, 2001

Contact: Jon Peterson (312-353-1264)

Pre-Final Inspection (Construction Completion), Ritari Post & Pole Superfund Site, Sebeka, Minnesota

On September 13, 2001, Tony Rutter traveled to the Ritari Post & Pole Superfund site in Sebeka, Minnesota, to conduct a pre-final inspection of the site. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) had been performing the remedial action under a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA which involved demolition and construction of a cap over contaminated soils. This successful pre-final inspection resulted in a construction completion being achieved on this site on September 26, 2001.

Contacts: Tony Rutter (312-886-8961)
Jon Peterson (312-3533-1264)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Compliance Inspections (Sector Initiative), Western Ohio

On October 9 and 10, 2001, George Rancich and Robert Foertsch, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), conducted two Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Compliance Inspections in Ohio. The facilities inspected were among those which had not responded to a compliance assistance mailing made by U.S. EPA on behalf of the Ohio State Emergency Response Commission. These mailings were part of a joint six State/U.S. EPA Sector Initiative involving Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes 3471 (plating and polishing) and 3479 (metal coating and coloring). These inspections complete the Sector Initiative in Ohio, where 15 inspections were conducted by OCEPP. Inspections under the Sector Initiative have now been completed in all States, with a total of 28 inspections conducted by OCEPP in addition to those conducted by U.S. EPA contractors. The facilities inspected this time were: Toledo Paint & Chemical Co., Toledo, and Simcote, Inc., Marion. A member of the Ohio State Emergency Response Commission/Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) participated in the inspections. The results of the inspections will be documented in reports to the appropriate OCEPP enforcement person for review and appropriate follow-up action.

Contacts: George Rancich (312-886-6148)
Robert Foertsch (312-886-0188)

Brownfields Team Meeting, Flint, Michigan

On October 10, 2001, a meeting was attended by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), City of Flint, General Motors Corp. (GM), U.S. EPA (Ross Powers), and the Brownfields Consultant, ECT, Inc., at the City Hall. Site work was discussed, and plans to apply for a Supplemental Site Assessment grant. GM gave a report to the team on their progress in clearing the Buick City Site under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) orders. The team is sharing data from their nearby site assessments with GM to make a more comprehensive data base available for prospective new owners of area properties. A site visit was conducted to investigate odor complaints at the abandoned Thrall Oil Plant while the team was in town. MDEQ is

trying to clear this site using Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) funds, but is running into access problems with the owner. Waste oil was seeping out of a suspected underground tank on site, but no odors were detected.

Contact: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Environmental Justice Pilot Training, Boston, Massachusetts

From October 2-4, 2001, members of the Environmental Justice Training Collaborative (EJTC) conducted the fourth of six Environmental Justice (EJ) pilots nationwide. The fourth pilot was held in Boston, Massachusetts. Oliver Warnsley, along with four other team members from EJTC, presented scripted modules of EJ training to a group of 25-30 people that came from industry, academia, and Federal, State, and local government. The purpose of this training was to get feedback and refine the existing training modules. The refined training module will be presented to trainers at a train the trainers session that will be held in early November 2001.

Contact: Oliver Warnsley (312-886-0442)

Hazardous Material Exercise, East Liverpool, Ohio

On October 10, 2001, the Hazardous Material Exercise in East Liverpool, Ohio, was hosted by Von Roll WTI, a hazardous waste incinerator operation. Greg Janiec and Brian Kelly, U.S. EPA Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) II contract personnel, acted as moderators and controllers of exercise play while Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), acted as a controller/evaluator. Initial planning and coordination of the exercise was conducted by Cheryl McIntyre and Robert Mayhugh of OCEPP in coordination with START II contractor Roy F. Weston. The scenario involved the accidental release of chlorine from one of the hazardous waste process units at the facility. Participants included players from the local fire department, hospital, ambulance service, County Emergency Management Agency, Local Emergency Planning Committee, and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), along with many managers and responders from Von Roll. Although planned as a tabletop exercise, many players used the locations and communications that would be employed in

an actual event, adding more reality to the drill. A debriefing of the evaluators revealed both some obvious strengths in the company's response capabilities, along with discovering a number of areas where improvement was needed. One of the evaluators was from the consulting firm hired by the company to write emergency plans and standard operating procedures. The comments provided by this individual were very well focused and were seemingly not influenced by the business relationship with the company. This was the first in a number of chemical response exercises planned to be carried out by OCEPP using the Start II contract.

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cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
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